

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-08 IO-13 SSM-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
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DRAFTED BY: NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH  
APPROVED BY: NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS:MR CARTER (INFO)  
H:MR FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM:MR MCANDREW  
NEA/ARN:MR DRAPER  
NEA/IAI:MR SMITH  
NEA/EGY:MR NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP:MR TWINAM  
NEA:MR CULLUMS  
ANA: MAKE C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (JERUSALEM OMITTED  
AS ACTION ADDEE)

-----190720Z 005274 /10/20

O 180126Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHREN  
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USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 060125

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (JERUSALEM OMITTED AS ACTION ADDEE)

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 17

1.FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 17,  
1977:

Q. LAST NIGHT THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED THERE HAS TO BE A  
HOMELAND PROVIDED FOR THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE  
SUFFERED FOR MANY MANY YEARS. I WAS WONDERING DOES  
SECRETARY VANCE HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OR EVEN THEORIES  
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AS TO WHERE THIS HOMELAND SHOULD BE?

A. WELL, I THINK WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID LAST NIGHT SPEAKS  
FOR ITSELF. AND AS THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR, HIS REMARKS  
DO NOT IMPLY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS TAKING A POSITION  
ON WHAT FORM A SOLUTION SHOULD TAKE. I THINK IF YOU READ  
THE ENTIRE STATEMENT YOU WILL SEE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS  
MADE CLEAR THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM MUST BE  
RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND  
ISRAEL. IF YOU WOULD FIND IT USEFUL, WE HAVE COPIES OF  
WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID LAST NIGHT, IN TOTO, AVAILABLE  
HERE, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET COPIES OF IT. IT IS A  
RATHER EXTENSIVE STATEMENT.

Q. CAN I FOLLOW THAT UP BY SIMPLY ASKING A FOLLOW-UP  
QUESTION? DOESN'T THE MENTION OF A HOMELAND WITH NO  
DETAILS AS TO WHERE, DOES THE SECRETARY FEEL THAT IT MIGHT  
HAVE SOME KIND OF A SERIOUS AFFECT ON A GREAT MANY PEOPLE  
WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE IT MIGHT BE  
LOCATED?

I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THE SECRETARY, NOT THE PRESIDENT.

A. THE QUESTION HAS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE STATEMENT I  
HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU. I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. WHAT DOES "HOMELAND" MEAN?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN WHAT I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU. I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. I THINK THEY ARE EXTENSIVE AND MAKE VERY CLEAR WHAT OUR GENERAL POSITION ON THIS IS.

Q. WELL, I'M SORRY. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME WHAT HE MEANS BY "HOMELAND."

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A. I AM NOT REALLY GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU ON THIS SO FAR.

Q. COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT ABOUT A HOMELAND WAS MADE AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WITH HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR?

A. CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WAS CERTAINLY GIVEN TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID. I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. BY THE SECRETARY?

A. CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT AND I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID IN COMMENTING FURTHER ON IT.

Q. BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A. BY EVERYONE CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY OF STATE THEN CONCERNED WITH THIS PROBLEM?

A. OF COURSE.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY OF STATE BELIEVE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES?

A. I HAVE GIVEN YOU WHAT I HAVE ON THIS, AND I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT A DIVERGENCE OF VIEW, IF THAT IS THE POINT YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE.

Q. I AM NOT TRYING TO MAKE THE POINT. I AM TRYING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ASK YOU A QUESTION.

A. I HAVE GIVEN YOU WHAT -- IN ANSWER TO LES' QUESTION--

I HAVE GIVEN YOU WHAT WE HAVE ON IT AND I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. TO FOLLOW UP ON MARVIN'S QUESTION, DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS GOING TO USE THE PHRASE "HOMELAND?"

A. I AM NOT GOING TO OFFER ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SUBJECT.

Q. WHY ARE YOU NOT GOING TO OFFER ANY MORE INFORMATION?

A. BECAUSE I DON'T CHOOSE TO. IT IS THAT SIMPLE.

Q. I UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU SAY "YOU," YOU ARE A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I WASN'T SO MUCH INTERESTED IN YOUR EMOTIONAL FEELINGS ABOUT IT. BUT, AS A POLICY MATTER, WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO DISCUSS IT WITH US?

YOU HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE WHITE HOUSE FOR OVER TWELVE HOURS. THOSE TWO SPARE SENTENCES ARE THE RESULT OF SOME TWELVE HOURS OF TOP HEAVY MENTAL DELIBERATIONS AND I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE UNFOLDING OF A FOREIGN POLICY?

A. BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY.

Q. NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE TO. HAVE YOU BEEN ORDERED TO SAY NOTHING MORE?

A. I AM MAKING A CHOICE.

Q. I KNOW YOU DON'T CARE TO. I DON'T CARE TO ASK THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONS, YOU KNOW.

A. ALL RIGHT. DON'T CARE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE

THAN THAT.

Q. YOU MEAN YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD TO SAY NOTHING FURTHER?

A. I AM SAYING WHAT OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER IS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS LAST NIGHT. WE HAVE COPIES OF HIS REMARKS AVAILABLE TO YOU AND I AM NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE.

Q. IT IS INSULTING TO PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS TO TELL THEM YOU ARE PREPARED TO GIVE THEM COPIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. ANY SELF-RESPECTING JOURNALIST BY

NOW IS WELL-EQUIPPED WITH THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS OR AT LEAST THE PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS. IF YOU ARE SAYING LOOK AT THE WHOLE THING AND DON'T PICK OUT ONE THING, YOU ARE TELLING US HOW TO OPERATE.

NOW, THE PRESIDENT IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY TO SPEAK ABOUT A HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND IT IS QUITE LOGICAL THAT WE ASK FOR SOME AMPLIFICATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A. ALL RIGHT. YOU ARE CERTAINLY FREE TO ANSWER.

Q. ASK.

A. EXCUSE ME -- TO ASK. I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID IN COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS LAST NIGHT.

Q. WHY? JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT OR BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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YOU WERE TOLD NOT TO?

A. THIS IS THE POSITION THAT I HAVE.

Q. I WANT TO UNDERSTAND ONE THING BECAUSE IT WASN'T CLEAR IN A SERIES OF MY QUESTIONS WHICH YOU ANSWERED AND MR. FRIED'S QUESTION.

WERE YOU SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT MADE THIS COMMENT AFTER TALKING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE; THAT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT IN NO WAY CAME AS A SURPRISE TO THE SECRETARY LAST NIGHT?

A. I AM SAYING THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS ON THIS SUBJECT LAST NIGHT REPRESENT THE COHESIVE AND COMPLETE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Q. YOU ARE NOT ANSWERING MY QUESTION, SIR.

A. THAT ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION.

Q. NO, IT REALLY DOESN'T, FRED, HONEST. YOU ARE GIVING ME A BROAD FORMULATION. I AM ASKING YOU A RATHER NARROW QUESTION.

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO DELINEATING, DISCUSSING OR OUTLINING FOR YOU HOW DECISIONS, STATEMENTS, POSITION PAPERS OR BRIEFING MEMORANDA ARE DRAWN UP. THAT IS CLEAR. WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID LAST NIGHT ON THIS SUBJECT REPRESENTS THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT AND THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.

Q. WASN'T THE PRESIDENT SPEAKING EXTEMPOREANOUSLY?

A. WHAT DO YOU MEAN "EXTEMPOREANOUSLY"?

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Q. DID HE HAVE NOTES IN FRONT OF HIM?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE HAD NOTES IN FRONT OF HIM.  
HE CERTAINLY WAS EXTRAORDINARILY WELL-BRIEFED.

Q. FRED, YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS  
SUGGESTED IN HIS REMARKS THAT THE SOLUTION IS UP TO THE  
TWO SIDES TO NEGOTIATE AND DECIDE UPON?

A. THAT IS VERY CLEAR FROM WHAT HE SAID. ARE YOU  
EQUIPPED WITH A COPY OF WHAT HE SAID?

Q. YES, I AM.

A. YOU HAVE A COPY. ALL RIGHT.

Q. I HAVE A COPY. I RECORDED IT TOO. BUT, YET HE SAID  
THERE HAS TO BE A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES  
AND THE WORDS HAVE MORE CONNOTATION THAN YOU ARE  
MAKING.

A. THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS LAST NIGHT TAKE UP TWO PAGES  
SINGLE SPACED. I AM NOT GOING TO EXPAND ON WHAT HE SAID  
OR OTHERWISE COMMENT.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER THIS A DEPARTURE  
FROM PREVIOUS POSITIONS FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT I HAVE SAID  
ON THIS SUBJECT TO CHARACTERIZE IT, DESCRIBE IT, OR  
OTHERWISE COMMENT.

Q. YOU SAID THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE DIVERGENCE  
OF VIEWS AND YET THE PRESIDENT SAYS A HOMELAND FOR THE  
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IS ONE OF THE THREE KEY QUESTIONS.  
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NOW, THOSE OF US WHO HAVE TRAVELED OR LISTENED TO  
SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE SPEAK ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, HE  
SPEAKS OF THREE KEY QUESTIONS, THE SAME HOLY TRINITY,  
BUT HE DOESN'T SPEAK OF A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIAN  
PEOPLE.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THERE IS NO DIVERGENCE? THEY DON'T SEEM TO AGREE ON WHAT THE THREE KEY QUESTIONS ARE, OR CORE QUESTIONS AS THE SECRETARY PUTS IT.

A. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT LAST NIGHT SPEAKS VERY CLEARLY FOR ITSELF. I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. SINCE YOU ARE NOT, CAN WE TURN TO ANOTHER SUBJECT.

Q. NO. SORRY.

FRED, QUITE APART FROM THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, WOULD YOU AS IN THE GENERAL SENSE DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN A HOMELAND, A NATIONAL HOME, A STATE, OR A COUNTRY FOR A PEOPLE?

A. ALL I CAN SAY, AGAIN, IS THAT I AM NOT GOING TO FROM THIS PODIUM GET INTO A DIFFERENTIATION OR ANY KIND OF INTERPRETATION OR COMMENT.

Q. I AM TALKING ABOUT GENERALLY. SAY IN AFRICA.

A. I AM NOT GOING TO TALK IN GENERAL ABOUT AFRICA OR ANYPLACE ELSE WITH REGARD TO THIS.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY OFFICIAL REACTION TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID EITHER FROM THE ARABS OR FROM THE ISRAELIS?

A. I HAVE ONLY SEEN WIRE REPORTS.

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Q. HAS AMBASSADOR DINITZ BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SECRETARY?

A. I WILL SEE, BUT I DON'T THINK WE ARE GOING TO GIVE YOU A READ-OUT OF EVERYBODY THAT HAS CALLED THIS BUILDING THIS MORNING.

Q. IN A GENERAL SENSE, NOT RELATING NECESSARILY TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, HAS THERE BEEN ANY SHIFT IN RECENT DAYS IN THE U.S. POSITION TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE CONVERSATION WE HAVE HAD OVER THE LAST TEN OR FIFTEEN MINUTES.

Q. ALL RIGHT. HAS THERE BEEN A SHIFT IN AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST TOWARD ISRAEL, PALESTINIANS OR THE ARABS, GENERALLY?

A. YOU CAN'T ASK THAT QUESTION WITHOUT --

Q. WELL, I HOPE YOU ARE NOT PRECLUDING THAT QUESTION FOREVER.

A. I AM NOT PRECLUDING IT. I HAVE JUST SAID I AM NOT GOING TO ADD TO WHAT I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU.

Q. I AM SIMPLY ASKING YOU TO RESTATE WHETHER IT IS STILL THE POLICY OR TO SAY AGAIN THAT U.S. POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED TOWARDS THE MIDDLE EAST.

A. THE LATEST STATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY IS CONTAINED IN THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS LAST NIGHT, ABOUT WHICH I AM NOT GOING TO OFFER ANY COMMENT BEYOND WHAT I HAVE GIVEN-- THESE THREE SENTENCES.

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Q. YOU WON'T EVEN AFFIRM WHETHER THAT IS A RESTATEMENT OF PAST POLICY?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO CHARACTERIZE THE STATEMENT. THERE IS NO CALL FOR ME TO CHARACTERIZE THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. I HAVE GIVEN YOU PRECISELY WHAT WE HAVE ON IT.

Q. YESTERDAY, FRED, YOU STATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS THE MIDDLE EAST. ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO REPEAT THAT STATEMENT TODAY?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO CHANGE THE RECORD, REPEAT, AMPLIFY OR GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU WITH REGARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS LAST NIGHT, PERIOD.

Q. YOU SAID WHEN ASKED WILL THE SECRETARY MEET OR TALK WITH THE PLO AND YOUR ANSWER WAS "NO."

NOW WHAT HAPPENS --

A. THAT IS A RESTATEMENT OF WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY.

Q. YES. YES. RIGHT. OKAY. NO ARGUMENT.

A. ALL RIGHT.

Q. NOW, YOU HAVE SAID "NO" AND YOU REPEATED WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY AND BY THAT I TAKE IT THAT IF AT THIS RECEPTION THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMES UP AND EXTENDS HIS HAND AND SAYS HELLO, MR. SECRETARY, THE SECRETARY WILL SAY "NO", OR WHAT WILL HE DO?

YOU SAY HE IS NOT GOING TO MEET OR TALK. WILL IT MEAN  
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THAT HE WILL IGNORE HIM, TURN HIS BACK ON HIM, OR WHAT?

A. I AM GOING TO PEER INTO THE FUTURE --

Q. THE FUTURE? IT'S THIS AFTERNOON.

A. -- AND TELL YOU WHAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAPPEN. I AM  
JUST TELLING YOU HE IS NOT GOING TO --

Q. YOU SAID HE IS NOT GOING TO TALK TO HIM.

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THAT HE WILL NOT, EVEN IF THE MAN  
EXTENDS HIS HAND, HE WILL IGNORE HIM?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THIS STATEMENT?

A. I TOLD YOU THAT THE SECRETARY -- I TOLD YOU THAT THE  
PRESIDENT IS NOT GOING TO MEET THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE.  
THAT IS IT.

Q. WHY WON'T THE SECRETARY OF STATE MEET THE PLO  
REPRESENTATIVE TODAY?

A. LOOK --

Q. NO. I AM SERIOUS. WHY DON'T THE SECRETARY --

A. I ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION.

Q. NO. YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED THIS QUESTION. WHY WON'T THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE -- PRESUMABLY YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEAK  
FOR THE PRESIDENT -- HAVE A MEETING TODAY WITH THE  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO?

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A. I HAVE JUST TOLD YOU THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO, AND I  
AM NOT GOING INTO THE REASON BEYOND WHAT IS COMMON  
KNOWLEDGE WITH REGARD TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PLO.  
THAT IS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCABLE. I DON'T THINK IT IS  
WORTHWHILE GOING INTO THAT IN DETAIL AGAIN.

Q. WELL, IF IT'S CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCABLE, I SUPPOSE YOU  
ARE REFERRING TO OUR POLICY TOWARD THE PLO.

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. WHICH KEN FRIED ASKED YOU BEFORE WHETHER IT IS  
CHANGED OR NOT AND YOU WOULDN'T ANSWER HIM.

A. I AM ANSWERING KEN'S QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF  
THE PREVIOUS QUESTION REGARDING AN ATTEMPT TO ELICIT FROM  
ME FURTHER COMMENT REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS  
LAST NIGHT WHICH I AM NOT ABOUT TO OFFER.

Q. WELL, WE CAN ALL LEAVE THE ROOM AND MAKE BELIEVE  
THAT THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T SPEAK LAST NIGHT AND COME IN  
ALL OVER AGAIN AND IF WE SHOULD DO THAT--WHICH SHOULD  
ONLY TAKE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES--AND THEN WE ASKED YOU WHAT  
IS OUR POLICY TOWARD THE PLO, YOU MEAN YOU WOULDN'T BE  
ABLE TO SAY OUR POLICY HAS CHANGED?

A. I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO THE PLO.

Q. MAY WE EXPECT THAT THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE SECRETARY  
WILL SNUB THE PLO IF THEY TRY TO SHAKE HANDS OR SPEAK  
WITH HIM?

A. DO WE HAVE A SERIOUS QUESTION?

Q. THAT IS A SERIOUS QUESTION. I REALLY THINK IT IS A  
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SERIOUS QUESTION. YOU HAVE DEALT WITH BARRY. YOU HAVE  
DEALT WITH SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM AND I THINK IT  
IS A VERY SERIOUS QUESTION. YOU SAID HE WILL NOT MEET OR  
TALK. HE IS GOING TO A RECEPTION. THERE WAS NO  
OBJECTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS INVITING THESE PEOPLE.

NOW, COULD YOU GIVE US A STRAIGHT ANSWER? WHAT IS HE  
GOING TO DO? YOU SAID HE WILL NOT TALK. WILL HE SNUB  
HIM OR NOT?

A. I REPEAT, IS THERE A SERIOUS QUESTION?

Q. I THINK YOU ARE INSULTING.

Q. ON THAT LINE, DID THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT,  
OR ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVE DEMAND, REQUEST OR IN ANY  
WAY ASK THAT NO PHOTOGRAPHERS OR NEWSMEN BE ALLOWED IN  
THE ROOM DURING THE RECEPTION?

A. I AM NOT PRIVY TO ALL THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT  
THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE IS BETTER EQUIPPED TO  
ANSWER.

Q. ALSO I AM TOLD THAT THE ARRANGEMENT IS THAT WALDHEIM WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT AROUND THE ROOM TABLE-BY-TABLE TO MEET PEOPLE. HAS THE UNITED STATES ASKED THAT WALDHEIM NOT TAKE THE PRESIDENT TO THE PLO TABLE?

A. I HAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA.

Q. FRED, CAN YOU CHECK?

A. AGAIN THAT IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

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Q. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE WORKED OUT WITH THE UNITED STATES. THESE ARE NOT THINGS THAT WALDHEIM AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN UP TO.

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THE PROTOCOL FOR TAKING PEOPLE AROUND.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK?

A. I WILL LOOK INTO IT.

Q. DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECOMMEND TO WALDHEIM'S OFFICE THAT THERE BE NO PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. COULD YOU TRY TO CHECK?

Q. WITHOUT BEING PRIVY TO EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON AT THE UN PLAZA TODAY, YOU MIGHT BE PRIVY TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THE STATE DEPARTMENT MADE REGARDING PUBLICIZING THE PLO PRESENCE AT THIS MEETING.

A. THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Q. I KNOW. I KNOW. BUT, I AM SURE YOU HAD AN INPUT INTO IT.

A. YOU MAY BE SURE, BUT I AM NOT. I AM TELLING YOU I DON'T KNOW.

Q. IS THERE IN THE PROCESS A REASSESSMENT OF U.S.-MID-EAST POLICY NOW OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A. WE HAVE HAD QUITE A BIT ON THIS ALREADY. I DON'T

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THINK I AM GOING TO OFFER ANY KIND OF FURTHER STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, GIVEN WHAT I HAVE SAID AND GIVEN THE DISCUSSION THUS FAR ON THE SUBJECT.

AS I HAVE SAID, THE LATEST STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT IS FOUND IN THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS LAST NIGHT. IN TERMS OF REASSESSMENT, RE-EXAMINATION, WHAT HAVE YOU, I AM JUST NOT GOING TO OFFER YOU COMMENT.

Q. CAN WE CHANGE THE SUBJECT TO LEBANON FOR A MOMENT?

A. SURE.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US THE LATEST EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF KAMAL JUMBLATT?

A. I DON'T HAVE A NICE, CLEAN EVALUATION TO GIVE YOU ON THE SITUATION THERE.

Q. ARE YOU WORRIED THAT IT MIGHT DEVELOP INTO ANOTHER CIVIL WAR?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO EXPRESS ANY HEIGHTENED CONCERN, ON THAT SUBJECT. WE CONTINUE OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WOULD END. I DON'T THINK THAT'S ANY NEWS. BUT BEYOND THAT, I REALLY CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY KIND OF EVALUATION.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE MARCH 17 PRESS BRIEFING:

THE SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED AT THE NOON BRIEFING TODAY UNCLASSIFIED

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WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST.

A. THE ANSWER IS "NO." THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE.

3. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON MARCH 18 IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE MARCH 17 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. HAVE ANY OF THE ARAB AMBASSADORS OR THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CALLED THE STATE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT. I HAVE NO DETAILS FOR YOU BEYOND THAT.  
CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 17 1.FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 17, 1977: FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XF, US  
**To:** AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
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